

SECRET

C/SF

Date

1956

Summary Request for Renewal

Division Project Clearance Sheet

1. Action: Request for Renewal, FY 1957

a. Project Cryptonym

OBITUARY

b. Division

SF

c. Branch

Yugoslavia/Albania

2. Division Concurrences:

CSE/X-A

Date

SE/CPP

Date

SE/DOF

Date

SE/CAL

Date

C/SF

Date

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Project: OBTUSE

1. Approvals

Original Approval (as part of REFLEND)

22 June 1949

Original Approval (as separate project)

16 July 1954

2. Funds Used

Prior to FY 1955 (separate breakdown not available)

FY 1955

[]

FY 1956

[]

3. Objectives and Proposal

To keep alive the spirit of passive resistance and hope for eventual liberation, to encourage defection and to promote friction between Albania and the Soviet orbit through the distribution of leaflets, other printed matter and small quantities of selected consumer goods delivered by the mails and by air drop.

4. Accomplishments and Effectiveness

- a. Nine overflights were flown over Albania in 1955 during which 25,150,000 leaflets and 9,500 packages of consumer articles were dropped. Flight cancellations due to runway repairs in Greece, the Bulganin-Khrushchev visit to Yugoslavia and poor weather caused a reduction in the number of flights scheduled. About 40 adult refugees entered Greece from Albania during 1955. Almost all of these refugees called the leaflets an important factor in keeping up the morale of anti-Communists and, in the case of one 14-member family, one of our leaflets was the deciding factor in encouraging the family to escape. However, there were no high-level defections during the year.
- b. A limited mail campaign was also conducted to supplement the air-drop delivery of leaflets and propaganda. Leaflets or letters were mailed from Paris, Rome, Istanbul, Cairo, Berlin, Belgrade and New York to various second-level Communist officials in Albania. Because of our lack of knowledge of the effectiveness of Albanian censorship controls and our lack of sources in Albania, we do not know if these letters reached the addressees, nor have we been able otherwise to evaluate the effectiveness of the mail campaign.

5. Plans

- a. At least one overflight or windrift mission per month is planned with an estimated delivery of 26,300,000 leaflets. Besides covering timely issues, some leaflets will be prepared aiming at increasing disaffection and defections among specific elements of the population.

SECRET

SECRET

Because of the rather difficult position of the Albanian regime in regard to the Soviet/Satellite rapprochement with Yugoslavia, we believe the coming year will offer unusual opportunities for creating and exploiting friction between Albania and the Soviet Orbit.

- b. Experiments conducted in dispersion of leaflets resulted in the decision to reduce the size of the leaflets to make collection more difficult for the Albanian security forces.
- c. Interrogation of escapees indicated that few of them could recall more than one theme of the six or so covered in our news leaflets. Therefore, the field has decided that during the coming year it will devote considerably more of the leaflets to a single major theme only.
- d. Since the National Committee for a Free Albania (NCFA) has been dissolved, leaflets will no longer be attributed to that organization. They will be attributed to a notional "Committee" or will not be given any attribution at all.
- e. A limited mail campaign on the scale of 1955 will be continued.

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10,000

PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA		PROJECT CRYPTONYM <div style="text-align: right; font-family: cursive;">OBTUSE</div>			
		FISCAL PERIOD COVERED <div style="text-align: center;">1 July 1956 THRU 30 JUNE 1957</div>			
*MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION					
RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION <div style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive;">SE</div>		CASE OFFICER <div style="text-align: center;">[]</div>			
A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS					
Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Include everyone paid from project.					
TYPE	NUMBER		ESTIMATED COMPENSATION		
	U. S. PERSONNEL	FOREIGN NATIONAL	BASE SALARY	ALL OTHER	TOTAL
STAFF EMPLOYEES					
STAFF AGENTS					
CAREER AGENTS					
CONTRACT AGENTS		10			
CONTRACT CONSULTANTS					
DETAILED PERSONNEL					
FIELD AGENTS		32 (CARRIED ON PROJECT OBTUSE)			
MILITARY					
ALL OTHER					
TOTAL A.					
B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT					
Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each.					
COMMO	CHEMICAL	QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES		OTHER SUPPLIES	
\$	\$	\$		\$ []	
MEDICAL	ORDNANCE	SPECIAL DEVICES		OTHER EQUIPMENT	
\$	\$	\$		\$	
TOTAL B. <div style="text-align: right;">[]</div>					
C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES					
Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc.					
misc operational expense					
TOTAL C. <div style="text-align: right;">[]</div>					
D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS					
If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained.					
TOTAL D. <div style="text-align: right;">[]</div>					
TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D) \$ <div style="text-align: right;">[]</div>					

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E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

FORM REQUIRED

☐

U. S. DOLLARS

☐

FOREIGN (SPECIFY)

☐

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specificationally the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)

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